

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
CINCLANT NORFOLK
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104268

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, NPG, PFOR
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SUBJECT: NPG MEMBERSHIP

REFS: A. USNATO 6434 (DTG 241805Z NOV 76)
B. STATE 9725 (DTG 150159Z JAN 77)

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY CANADIAN EMBASSY HERE THAT

MINISTER OF DEFENSE DANSON WISHES TO RAISE WITH SECRETARY BROWN AT THE FORTHCOMING DPC THE SUBJECT OF ELIMINATING THE ROTATIONAL ELEMENT OF NPG MEMBERSHIP. CANADA, THE NETHERLANDS AND NORWAY WILL ROTATE OUT OF THE NPG FOR AN 18 MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 1977. AT THAT TIME, BELGIUM AND DENMARK WILL ROTATE INTO MEMBERSHIP. GREECE ROTATES OUT APRIL 1, 1978 AND IS REPLACED BY TURKEY. THIS IS THE LATEST INDICATION WE HAVE HAD OF INTEREST BY SOME ALLIES IN EXPANDING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NPG.

2. WHEN THIS QUESTION WAS RAISED BY THE BELGIAN PERMREP LATE LAST YEAR (REF A), OUR VIEW WAS THAT CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER SHOULD BE LEFT FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION (REF B). WE WERE (AND CONTINUE TO BE) CONCERNED ABOUT HOW CHANGES IN THE SCOPE AND STRUCTURE OF THE NPG MIGHT BE PERCEIVED BY THE FRG, AND THE OTHER PERMANENT MEMBERS, ITALY AND THE UK. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED WHAT SUCH A CHANGE

MIGHT MEAN TO THE NPG AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR NUCLEAR CONSULTATION IN NATO. IN ADDITION TO THE QUESTION OF NPG MEMBERSHIP, WE ARE AWARE OF SOME ALLIED INTEREST IN FINDING A MEANS FOR DEALING WITH THE "INTERFACE" BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR PLANNING. THESE ISSUES INVOLVE SUCH QUESTIONS AS:

-- THE ROLE OF THE FRG IN ALLIANCE NUCLEAR MATTERS.

-- THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NPG AS A SPECIAL FORUM FOR ALLIANCE DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR POLICY.

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-- THE IMPORTANCE TO THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT NPG STRUCTURE.

-- THE ATTITUDES OF THE ROTATING MEMBERS TOWARD THE PRESENT NPG STRUCTURE.

3. THESE QUESTIONS MAY BE CONSIDERED ON THE MARGINS OF THE COMING DPC AND NPG MINISTERIALS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PERCEPTION OF ALLIED VIEWS ON THE ACCEPTABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF EXPANSION OF NPG PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP AND, SECONDARILY, A POSSIBLE MELDING OF CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR ISSUES IN SOME NATO FORUM. THERE SHOULD BE NO RPT NO DISCUSSION OF THESE MATTERS WITH THE ALLIES. TO BE MOST USEFUL, ASSESSMENTS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BEFORE THE DPC MINISTERIAL AND PREFERABLY BEFORE MAY 11.

CHRISTOPHER

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